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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. LEE of California).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 8, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BARBARA LEE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE ANSWERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of millions of law-abiding citizens who are under attack because they own a firearm. Right now, their rights are under attack from the Biden administration.

This week, it was reported that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives is now in possession of

nearly one billion records detailing the firearm purchases of American citizens. This is a gross overstep of the ATF's power. No government agency should be spying on Americans.

Right now, crime is on the rise in cities throughout America. This certainly is not the time to attempt to intimidate law-abiding citizens. It is not the time to infringe on their constitutional right to carry a gun. It is their right to defend themselves, their right to protect their family and their communities.

It is time for the Biden administration to explain this menacing and unconstitutional action.

Madam Speaker, the law-abiding people of America are awaiting an answer.

DEMOCRATS ARE DOING IMPORTANT WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the important work Democrats are doing to strengthen our supply chains and keep the U.S. economically competitive.

Last year, the Biden-Harris administration and their allies in Congress achieved the best record of job creation in history. Let me repeat that: The best record of job creation in history.

Texans continue to find jobs with higher pay or better benefits.

We are seeing the best economy for American workers in decades, with people getting higher wages, better benefits, and better jobs thanks in large part to President Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the American Rescue Plan and an effective national vaccine rollout.

When I visited with leadership from the Port of Houston in my district, they expressed their gratitude for Congress' strong investment in the maritime infrastructure needed to keep

America's economy moving in the right direction.

But they also expressed concern that more workers were still needed in technical training than our current system will provide.

Last week, the House took another great step forward to support the job creation and the American workforce by passing the America COMPETES Act.

Now it is critical for the Senate to move on the America COMPETES Act to pass measures like my grant program for training at Domestic Maritime Centers for Excellence.

The America COMPETES Act will also provide real solutions to the problems of how we start making more of our Nation's critical products right here at home. This will provide more job opportunities as jobs return from abroad.

It will also make our futures more secure by shifting away from reliance on foreign countries for the products that you and I and everyday Americans rely on.

Finally, it will invest in critical infrastructure and development we need in science and technology to encourage and support our next generation of scholars, incentivize innovation, and keep the U.S. competitive.

The bottom line, Madam Speaker, is that Americans are back to work and getting their vaccines and boosters at a record pace.

The America COMPETES Act can continue this trend.

We must get this bill to the President's desk now.

I urge the Senate to pass it.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, rural communities are the heartbeat of America. These are hardworking, God-fearing people, and they deserve access to basic healthcare. And quite frankly, if our Nation is going to reap the blessings of our food supply and food security and our fuel supply and energy independence, we have to work together to make sure that we have that critical access to care, which means sustainable rural communities and a robust supply of ag and energy.

Now, in 1969 in the wisdom of the Texas legislature, they created the Texas Tech University Medical School that became the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. And the mission was not only to train up the next generation of healthcare professionals and develop the next generation of healthcare innovations, it was to plug a gaping hole in rural communities by providing excellent healthcare services to these good people.

The Health Sciences Center has become Texas' center for innovation in telehealth practices.

The Health Sciences Center has pioneered telehealth and paved the way for over 100,000 rural west Texans to access vital healthcare services.

By understanding the needs of rural patients who are at increased risk for physician shortages and have a higher mortality rate than their urban counterparts, the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center was able to provide a blueprint for telehealth best practices that have been essential to our country over the past 2 years.

In addition to protecting patients' physical health, the Health Sciences Center has developed Telepsych, which connects patients, including children, who are having serious mental health issues, to a licensed professional. And unfortunately, with school closures as a result of the pandemic—and I would say later as a result of union-controlled schools—this has become a much-needed and much more popular service.

Thank you, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center for being a beacon of hope for the health and future of our country and especially rural America.

God bless, and go west Texas.

WISHING ELVIN N. HOWELL A HAPPY 108TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and wish Elvin Howell a happy 108th birthday.

Mr. Howell grew up in Snyder, Texas, before hitchhiking to Abilene, Texas, to attend Hardin-Simmons University, where he played football and ran track.

After graduating from HSU, Howell moved to Kermit, Texas, with his wife, Rena.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II, Mr. Howell heroically enlisted in the United States Navy and served as a commander on a merchant marine ship guarding the United States from a foreign invasion.

Mr. Howell returned to west Texas after the war to raise his family and

educate the next generation of west Texans as a teacher in Tulia, Texas.

Mr. Howell credits his impressive longevity to spending time outdoors, as when he celebrated his 103rd birthday ziplining in the Palo Duro Canyon. What a man.

Elvin Howell has lived a full life of service to his family, community, and his country. He is one of the 20 oldest living veterans in the United States. Elvin is an inspiring coach, a caring educator, and a true west Texan.

Elvin was married to his late wife, Rena, for 60 years. They have two sons, John and Fred, and three grandchildren.

On behalf of my colleagues in this great Chamber, we want to wish Mr. Howell a happy 108th birthday and many more to come.

God bless, and go west Texas.

CONGRESS MUST DO MORE TO ENSURE AMERICANS HAVE SAFE DRINKING WATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, for far too long, countless people across our country have been forced to suffer the effects of lead-poisoned drinking water, especially low-income communities and communities of color. We need to fully fund lead pipe replacement in our country to protect our children and our neighbors.

We simply can't build back better if children are being poisoned.

Water contaminated by lead service lines can be found in every congressional district in our Nation and has proven to cause long-term effects like cancer, brain dysfunction, and more. There is no safe level of lead.

A recent water quality study done by the Environmental Working Group and recently published by the Detroit Metro Times shows that there is an overwhelming number of contaminants in our drinking water, not just lead and PFAS, and they are in every community across the State of Michigan. We need \$1.65 billion to remove those contaminated water pipes now.

I know experts say that we need close to 45 to \$60 billion to basically be able to provide safe drinking water across our Nation.

The U.S. EPA has historically failed to safeguard clean drinking water with regulations that are sorely out of date, but it doesn't have to be this way, Madam Speaker.

We must do more to ensure that we have accessible safe drinking water, and our communities cannot wait. The impact on our children's brain development alone is the reason to move with urgency.

This is why I am proud to have launched the bipartisan Get the Lead Out Caucus with Congressmembers DINGELL, MEIJER, and BLUNT ROCH-ESTER. We are going to provide a working group bringing us all together in this national crisis that we have.

Our children and our families deserve access to safe drinking water, and I look forward to my colleagues' partnership.

CELEBRATING HATTIE WHITE ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hattie White, a long-term resident of southwest Detroit in Michigan's 13 District Strong on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Mother Hattie White was born on February 23 in 1922 in Alabama and later moved to the city of River Rouge, Michigan.

Hattie married the love of her life, Albert James White, in 1946. They were married for 52 years and raised their seven children in the River Rouge and southwest Detroit communities with love and instilling an ethic of responsibility and kindness toward others.

In 1967, Mother White and her husband started a community church, Love Joy Missionary Baptist Church in River Rouge, which cemented her role as a matriarch of our community.

Mother White shines bright in our community and has brought so much joy to her family, friends, and neighbors.

Please join me in wishing a happy 100th birthday to Mother Hattie White.

CELEBRATING PROJECT WE HOPE DREAM AND BELIEVE

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Project We Hope Dream and Believe from the 13th District Strong on their hard work on getting civil rights leader Malcolm X's home in Inkster, Michigan, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in 1925 in Nebraska. During his childhood, his family relocated many times to communities in our Nation's midwest, including Inkster, Michigan, before moving to Boston and New York City in his teens.

The home on Williams Street where Malcolm X and his family resided from 1952 to 1953 sat neglected for decades until the leadership of local organization Project We Hope Dream and Believe worked to preserve this historic site.

The house will be transformed into a museum that will focus on the life and significance of Malcolm X, his advocacy, and as a youth learning center.

Thank you to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for their help in preserving our district's Black history and Malcolm X's legacy and impact on our communities.

Please join me in congratulating Project We Hope Dream and Believe on their incredible accomplishment and their hard work in preserving our history.

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TRIBUTE TO MELISSA MURPHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from